Application No. 10/780,046 filed 02/17/2004 Amendment dated 12/22/2006 Reply to Office Action of 09/28/2006

Amendments to the Drawings

None

Remarks |

The present invention comprises a loading and unloading assembly whereby a workpiece is clamped on its centers and the clamping mechanism carries the workpiece into and out of the workholding mechanism of a machine tool.

The current status of the claims is as follows:

- 1. Claims 1-3, 5-7, and 12-14 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(b) as being anticipated by Corcoran (US 4,383,457).
- 2. Claims 8-11 and 15 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Corcoran in view of Rosengren (US 2,389,083).
- Claim 4 is objected to as being dependent upon a rejected base claim, but would be allowable if rewritten in independent form including all of the limitations of the base claim and any intervening claims.

With the above amendment, the subject matter of dependent claim 4, along with that of intervening dependent claim 2, has been incorporated into independent claim 1. As such, claim 1 is now believed to be allowable in light of the Examiner's comments in the first Office Action.

Claims 2, 4 and 12-15 have been canceled.

Claim 3 has been amended to correct the dependency thereof in light of the cancellation of claim 2.

Conclusion

With the above amendments and remarks, it is believed Applicant has responded to all aspects of the Office Action. As such, a prompt Notice of Allowance with respect to claims 1, 3 and 5-11 is respectfully and earnestly solicited.

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If the Examiner has any questions, he is cordially invited to telephone Applicant's Agent at (585) 461-8071. Should any additional fees be required in order that this paper, or any attachments hereto, be deemed a complete and timely response, the Commissioner is hereby authorized to charge Deposit Account No. 07-1425 for any such fees.

Respectfully submitted,

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I hereby certify that this correspondence (along with any papers referred to as being accompanying, enclosed, attached, or submitted herewith) is being deposited with the United States Postal Service with sufficient postage as first class mail in an envelope addressed to:

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on December 22, 2006 (Date of Deposit)

Robert L. McDowell

(Name of Applicant, Assignee or Registered Representative)

(Signature)

December 22, 2006

(Date of Signature)